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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR INFORMATION CALL

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August 30, 2022

Ald. Michael J. Murphy  
(414) 286-2074

## **International Overdose Awareness Day to be recognized across Milwaukee tomorrow**

In recognition of International Overdose Awareness Day on Wednesday, August 31 various buildings and bridges in Milwaukee will illuminate purple light as part of the annual campaign to end overdose, remember without stigma those who have died, and acknowledge the grief of the family and friends left behind. The effort is in partnership with the City-County Heroin, Opioid, and Cocaine Task Force (CCHOCTF), according to **Alderman Michael J. Murphy**, who serves as co-chair of the task force.

“Last year we were able to recognize International Overdose Awareness Day in Milwaukee through a partnership with Light the Hoan, and I am delighted that this year we have even more entities willing to support this cause,” said Alderman Murphy. “We continue to lose too many lives to drug overdoses locally, and this will be a powerful way to honor and remember those we have lost to addiction. On behalf of the City-County Heroin, Opioid, and Cocaine Task Force, I want to express our sincere appreciation to all those participating.”

Entities participating in International Overdose Awareness Day include: Brighten the Passage (I-794 underpass at Water Street and Broadway); Light The Hoan; Pritzlaff Building; 600 EAST Wisconsin; US Bank Building; Milwaukee County Historical Society; Mitchell Park Domes; Fiserv Forum; Gas Light Building; American Family Field; Lakefront Brewery (kegnado); Discovery World; MGIC; and Schlitz Park.

In addition, Alderman Murphy, the Milwaukee Health Department and community partners have worked to organize three community overdose awareness memorial events throughout the day tomorrow.

**-More-**

## Overdose Awareness Day/ADD ONE

The memorial events will commemorate lost loved ones by placing their name on the community memorial tree that will live at City Hall. Residents are invited to attend any of the events. The first will occur at Samad's House, 2875 N. 23<sup>rd</sup> St. from 10 a.m. – noon. The second will take place at the South Side Health Center, 1639 S. 23<sup>rd</sup> St. from 1 – 3 p.m. The final memorial will occur from 4 – 6 p.m. at the Humboldt Park Bandshell, 3000 S. Howell Ave.

The CCHOCTF has worked to make recommendations that ensure the long-term health and safety of City and County residents by reducing fatal and nonfatal overdose from misuse of opioids, heroin, and cocaine through data-driven public health prevention approaches. The CCHOCTF represents multiple sectors from city, county, and state agencies and those with lived experiences of substance abuse. Those interested can visit [here](#) for more information on overdose prevention, and to view the final report of the CCHOCTF.